

Manufacturing Innovation Fund Advisory Board

April Meeting Minutes

Department of Economic and Community Development

April 20, 2017

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

505 Hudson Street

Hartford, Connecticut

Attendance

- Board Members Present: John Harrity, Beverlee Dacey, Don Balducci, Colin Cooper Catherine Smith,
- Board Members via phone: Todd Pihl
- Quorum: Yes
- Stakeholders Present: Scott Jackson, Sue Palisano, Bernice Zampano, Todd Berch, Jill Adams, Will Thomas
- DECD Staff: Barbara Fernandez, Carmen Molina-Rios, Toni Karnes

Minutes

Meeting called to order by Chair Commissioner Catherine H. Smith at 9:10 am.

Commissioner Smith welcomed the board to the meeting and introductions were made.

Commissioner Smith asked that the group move first to review the information on the Pre Apprentice and Apprentice Program to meet Commissioner Jackson's Schedule.

Commissioner Jackson reviewed the goals and budget of the Pre Apprentice and Apprentice Program. He requested that the contract period for the program be modified end on 6/30/18 and that all contracts are two year terms. Commissioner Smith asked that the group vote in order to make the adjustment. Don Balducci moved that the change be made. Colin Cooper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jackson provided an overview of the goals versus the results to date of the Pre Apprentice and Apprentice Program. He noted that DOL needed to move faster to meet the goal numbers and that they have reviewed their timeline and will have a kickoff in the beginning of the next school year to attract a large number of students. After some discussion, Commissioner Smith noted that perhaps a direct mailing or flyer would help. Subsequent discussion ensued and John Harrity suggested that there be a poll as to why the program is not being taken advantage of. Don Balducci noted that the DOL team was doing well in their efforts.

Approval of February meeting minutes: Commissioner Smith asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Colin Cooper noted a needed correction to the date of the minutes. Commissioner Smith asked for a motion to accept minutes of February 16, 2017 with the appropriate adjustments. Motion was moved by Don Balducci and seconded by John Harrity. Motion passed unanimously.

Marketing: Jill Adams provided an update on the marketing efforts. She noted that the email sent to key contact list resulted in a 46% open rate and 83% downloaded the flyer. She also provided a preview of how to navigate the website. After some discussion Commissioner Smith asked when the launch would take place. Ms. Adams noted it would occur within the month. She then proceeded to show the promotional videos for the site.

Workforce Development:

Overview of Investments to Date: Carmen Molina-Rios provided an overview of the current MIF state of strategies and its impact. She pointed out Board commitments versus funds spent for Board approved programming. She provided an in depth overview on the Board's investment impact on workforce development. She also provided metrics on the number of companies, parents, students, educators and workers trained as a result of MIF programs. After some discussion, Commissioner Smith reminded the Board how effective they were in their efforts.

Dream It Do It: Sue Palisano provided an overview of the CCAT request for \$250,000 request to continue the Dream It Do It program. She noted the mission and objectives of the program. She provided the Board with an overview on the new proposed aspects of the program as well as the current and proposed metrics of the program.

Young Manufactures Academy: Sue Palisano provided an overview of the CCAT request for \$250,000 request to continue the Young Manufacturers Academy. She noted the mission and objectives of the program. She provided the Board with an overview on the new proposed aspects of the program as well as the current and proposed metrics of the program.

Ms. Palisano provided an overview of the budget for both programs. Commissioner Smith asked for a motion to approve the budgets for both programs. John Harrity moved and Todd Pihl seconded the motion. Don Balducci recused himself. Beverlee Dacey opposed. Motion Passed.

Composite Update: Commissioner Smith provided the Board with an update on the status of the negotiation with Pratt & Whitney and CCAT regarding the establishment of a Composite Center. After some discussion, the Board agreed to have Commissioner Smith continue with the negotiations for the project's \$6.9M request.

Other Business: Toni Karnes stated the May 18th board meeting would be the yearly Strategy Session. She noted that it would take place at the New Britain Museum of American Art and it would run from 9 to 12.

The CCSU proposal was highlighted by Commissioner Smith and she stated that it would be tabled to a later date.

After some discussion, Commissioner Smith asked for a motion to adjourn. Colin Cooper moved the motion. Don Balducci seconded and the motion passed.